

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Omaha and vicinity, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community.

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## THE IMPENDING RAILROAD STRIKE

Unless the order is rescinded or means are found to prevent it, Monday morning will find the railroads of the country tied up by a strike. If the strike be continued for any considerable length of time it will mean serious inconvenience, privation and suffering to the great American public, whose rights are primarily to be considered.

Right this time is on the side of the railroad officials rather than upon that of the labor organizations which have ordered the strike. The officials are willing to submit the case to a board of arbitration and to abide by the decision of that board; the representatives of the labor organizations refuse to submit the issues in the case to arbitration, but imperiously insist that their demands, which may or may not be just, be at once complied with. The public, we are quite sure, will not sustain them in this position and without the sympathy and good will of the public the strike will fail. If their demands be just, the trainmen have nothing to lose and everything to gain by arbitration.

Their stubborn refusal to submit to arbitration places the trainmen in a most unfavorable light before the public and throws the balance in favor of the railroad heads.

Railroads and other corporations have their rights and limitations as well as individuals and it is for them to say if the sudden increase of their operating expenses by hundreds of millions of dollars will or will not seriously embarrass them. If, as the railroads contend, they are willing to submit the case to an impartial board and abide by that board's decision the representatives of the trainmen should be willing to meet them half way.

In the event that the strike comes, then the President by the right of eminent domain with which his office clothes him, should see to it that the public does not suffer through the stubbornness and selfishness of the two contending parties. There is no need for this strike; and certainly not until arbitration has at least been tried.

## THE APPOINTMENT PLEASES

We are very much pleased with Mayor Dahlman's appointment of Amos P. Scruggs as inspector of weights and measures and his prompt and unanimous confirmation by the city commissioners. We believe that the appointment is one that leaves no room for criticism, but upon the contrary is one upon which the administration, the business public and the race should be congratulated. Mr. Scruggs is a young man of good

education and pleasing personality and bears a good reputation. He is gentlemanly and courteous, and, in our judgment, has both the tact and ability to handle the office most satisfactorily. He is a home-owner and tax-payer, and as such is identified with and contributing to the prosperity and development of the city. All of these are points in his favor.

The Monitor sincerely congratulates Mr. Scruggs upon his selection and desires publicly to commend and thank Mayor Dahlman for the excellent choice we believe him to have made from among so many applicants.

## FORCE AND MORAL SUASION.

In dealing with people of mature judgment, we believe that one can accomplish more in bringing about reform along any line by moral suasion than by using force. Force may restrain, but it never really permanently subdues or wins. It is only by winning over one's judgment and affection by an earnest appeal to the better nature within every man that permanent reform or good can be accomplished. Here is where legislative programs so frequently fail. Force is at times necessary; but at best its results are only temporary. Moral suasion requires patience, pluck, persistency and perseverance, but in the end it wins. It does not merely restrain; it constrains.

## STEPS IN WILSON'S CAREER

One of our exchanges summarizing the steps in President Wilson's remarkable career notes as the last eight steps the following:

"Nominated for president of the United States July 2, 1912.  
Elected November, 1912.  
Inaugurated March 4, 1913.  
Began watchful waiting in Mexico, 1913.  
Continued watchful waiting, 1914.  
Still watchfully waiting, 1915.  
Waiting watchfully, 1916.  
Renominated St. Louis, 1916.  
This is almost as good as the "New Wilson Five-step;" executed thus: one step forward, one step backward, hesitate, side-step, salute—nit.

## A CLEAN NEWSPAPER.

We are in receipt of The Monitor, a weekly newspaper devoted to the interest of the eight thousand colored people in Omaha and vicinity, and to the good of the community. The Monitor is exactly the size of The Oak Leaf with double the number of pages. A nice, clean sheet with good quality of reading matter, and is a credit to its editor and the race it represents. Here is our hand, brother.—The Oak Leaf, Baton Rouge, La.

We sincerely thank our contemporary for its kind words.

## YELLOW RED CAPS.

Although the officials of the Union Pacific railroad presumably know their business, there is certainly room for argument as to their wisdom in supplanting the colored "red caps" at the Union Depot with Japanese boys.

The colored men who are thus ousted from their jobs are Omaha citizens and voters, and most of them property owners of one sort or another. The Japanese "red caps" were brought in by the Union Pacific solely to be "red caps" and are aliens in every sense.

Whatever the motive of the Union Pacific may be—this company being the heart and soul of the Union Depot company—in our opinion the positions mentioned certainly should lie between Omaha and Nebraska citizens, of whatever color.

An explanation of some sort would seem to be in order.—The World-Herald, Aug. 31st.

While the World-Herald is in error as to the displacement of the "red caps," the position taken in this editorial is sound. It is the JANITORS on the night shift who have been displaced by the Japanese, and not the "red caps." But these colored janitors are citizens, voters and tax-payers. They are not aliens but loyal Americans. In these perilous times it would seem to be the part of wisdom to give preference in the matter of employment to American citizens.

There is no excuse for substituting Japanese for colored labor. If the work of these particular janitors were unsatisfactory it would be an easy matter to find others who would be satisfactory.

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